Setting up of more Labour Courts

1243. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to set up more Labour Courts to settle the cases expeditiously;

(b) if so, the instructions given to the State Governments to set up such courts; and

(c) the State Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals are set up by the State Governments according to Workload. In August, 1989 State Governments were requested to review the disputes pending in various Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals and to take remedial action by setting up of additional Courts and Tribunals wherever necessary. A national seminar of Presiding Officers of Tribunals and Labour Courts was also held in March1990 to discuss about measures to make adjudication more effective. According to the available information a number of Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals have been set up in 1989 by diflerent State Governments.

Accident at Sripur Seam Incline under Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

1244. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an accident at Sripur Seam Incline under Sripur areas of Eastern coalfields Ltd. on the 23rd January, 1990;

(b) if so, what were the causes of the accident; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Director General, Mines Safety in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While a gang of loaders was running to sarety after hearing the warning whistle of an overman about an impending fall of roof in the goal, some of them were thrown on the ground due to high velocity of air expelled from the goaf, resulting in fatal injury to one loader and serious bodily injury to another.

(c) The inquiry into the accident conducted by an officer of the Directorate General of mines safety revealed that the sudden collapse of the roof could not be anticipated and that the accident was not on account of lapse on the part of any person.

Safety in open cast coal mines

1245. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statutory provisions are adequate to ensure safety of workers in the open cast coal mines; and

(b) if not, whether Government have any plan to suitably modify the statutes for safe operation of the Open Cast Coal Mines?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines including open cast mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and the regulations framed thereunder. These are reviewed from time to time by the Ministry of Labour. Guidelines, wherever called for are also issued by the Director General of Mines Safety. The management of mines are required to comply with these provisions.

The 7th Conference on Safety in Mines held on the 19th & the 20th December, 1988 made several recommendations for improving the status of safety in open cast mines. These recommendations related to framing of (i) a Code of traffic for